



# California Crop Weather

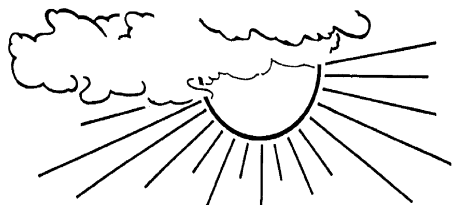
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: July 27, 2008  
RELEASED: July 28, 2008

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## WEATHER



Last Monday, a weak lower pressure system off the coast brought enough moisture to create isolated showers along the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada and the northern mountains. Places like Alturas, Blue Canyon, and South Lake Tahoe registered traces of rain. Diurnal heating combined with moisture and an unstable atmosphere helped to develop cumulus clouds across the central valley and surrounding mountains. This eventually lowered temperatures well below the seasonal normal for this time of year. The cool air remained through Tuesday, and

by Wednesday a shortwave ridge allowed for clear skies and warmer temperatures across the region, with daytime highs in the mid 90s across the interior portions of the state. Atmospheric conditions remained the same on Thursday and Friday except for higher temperatures. Daytime high temperatures in the Sacramento Valley were in the upper 90s, with overnight lows in the low to mid 60s. The temperature inversion during night hours mainly affected places in the foothills, where low temperatures reached the high 60s to low 70s. Places in the central and southern California coasts remained in the mid 70s and mid 80s to mid 90s inland throughout the week, with few a showers over the mountains. Saturday was the warmest day of the week in most locations. On Sunday the marine layer associated to an upper level trough made its way inland and through the Delta area, bringing slightly cooler temperatures to northern California. Smoke and haze from the fires lingered over the northern Sacramento Valley throughout the week. This lowered visibilities and air quality, especially in places closest to the fires.

## FIELD CROPS

**Wheat** harvest was complete. **Alfalfa** growers continued to cut, windrow, rake, and bale for production of alfalfa hay. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was almost complete. Harvest of **corn** was still in progress for silage and grain. **Barley** fields continued to be windrowed and baled as straw. **Cotton** fields continued to develop; irrigation and cultivation activities were in progress. **Rice** fields continued to grow nicely. **Safflower** was being dried down before harvest. **Blackeye bean** plantings continued to mature nicely. Fall **sugar beets** were still being irrigated and treated with insecticides.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** harvest was picking up speed. Flame and Thompson Seedless, Diamond Muscat, Black Emerald, Perlette, Red Globe and Summer Royal varieties were being picked. Stone fruit harvest continued. Brittany Lane, Diamond Princess, Early Saturn, Elegant Lady, Glacier White, Honey Giant, Ivory Princess, Jasper Gem, Jasper Treasure, July Flame, Late Saturn, Magenta Queen, Pink Giant, Rich Lady, Snow Angel, Snow Blaze, Spring Flame, Snow Giant, Spring Snow, Spring Treat, Strawberry Heirloom, Summer Lady, Summer Sweet, Summer Zee, Sweet Kay, Sweet Sun and Vista Gem **peaches**; Black Beaut, Black Splendor, Catalina, Cherry Bomb, Crimson Gold, Fortune, Friar, Red Beaut, Red Crimson, Ruby Red, Ruby Rosa, Sugar Drop and Yummy Beaut **plums**; Apple Fire, Dapple Fire, Dapple Supreme, Dinosaur Egg, Emerald Sweet and Flavor Queen **pluots**; Arctic Belle, Candy Pearl, Diamond Bright, Diamond Pearl, Fire Pearl, Fire Sweet, Grand Pearl, Honey Fire, July Pearl, June Pearl, Red Diamond, Red Jewel, Red Lion, Red Pearl, Red Roy, Ruby Bright, Ruby Diamond, Ruby Pearl, Summer Bright, Summer Fire, Sunny Gun and Zee Fire **nectarines**; **figs** and **Asian pears** were picked. Zante **currants** were harvested. Valencia **oranges** are still being picked but at a slower pace. The Valencia harvest was over 50% complete in some areas. **Lemons** and **grapefruit** were harvested. The **olive** crop appeared to be irregular with some groves too light to harvest. Irrigation measures increased in citrus and olive groves due to the heat.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond** harvest began in Kern County with shaking of trees and sweeping nuts into rows. Elsewhere hull split continued and branches were being propped due to the heavy crop. Maintenance sprays for codling moth and mites were being made in **walnuts**. The heavy crop load continued to break limbs in walnut groves.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

In Imperial Valley ground was being prepared for fall vegetables. High temperatures continued to mature summer vegetables faster than normal. Quality and size of some of the vegetables have been hindered because of the heat. Processing **tomatoes** were growing well as long as water was deliverable. In southern San Joaquin Valley, harvest of tomatoes, **peppers**, and **melons** continued strong. **Carrot** harvest was slowing. In central San Joaquin Valley, commercial tomato harvest was slowed by recent hot weather, affecting fruit volume on plants. Harvest of **okra**, long **beans**, **squash**, sweet **corn**, **cilantro**, **cucumbers**, and various Oriental vegetables continued. Harvest of **watermelon**, **cantaloupe** and mixed melons was in full swing. More fields of **garlic** were harvested. Second planting of squash and cucumber was on going. In northern San Joaquin Valley, carrots were being harvested with excellent yields. Garlic yields were good. Current vegetables harvested were **lettuce**, carrots and canning tomatoes. Yields on canning tomatoes continued to be disappointing with poor color due to extreme high temperatures. Harvests of fresh market **onion**, summer squash, bell pepper, and melon crops continued. In southern and central Sacramento Valley heat increased the presence of insects and army worms with insecticide application ongoing in many fields.

## LIVESTOCK

Feed continued to be a major concern for cattle, dairy, and sheep producers. Rangeland forage grasses and non-irrigated pasture were reportedly in poor to very poor condition, due to the extremely dry weather this year. Fire danger remained high in some areas. Cattle were receiving supplements of hay and other nutrients. The decline in milk production continued with the recent hot weather. Sheep were grazing on idle farmland, harvested grain fields, and some rangeland in the central part of the state. Honeybees continued to pollinate melon, squash, and cucumber crops. Pollination continued in sunflower and vineseed crops in the northern valley. Leafcutter bees were placed in alfalfa seed fields, and some hives remained in holding areas.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 07/27/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 07/27/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 07/27/08	January 1 - 07/27/08	Week Ending 07/27/08	July 1 - 07/27/08	July 1 - 07/27/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	- - Degrees Fahrenheit - -				- - Number - -		- - Inches - -			
Eureka	53	-5	64	44	18	0	0.01	34.44	38.53	37.53
Ukiah	72	-3	94	49	870	763	0.00	27.83	39.44	37.96
Santa Rosa	66	-1	92	49	597	441	0.00	24.30	31.01	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	61	-3	77	52	278	161	0.00	15.49	20.37	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	829	692	0.00	11.33	15.20	14.42
Salinas AP	61	-2	77	49	257	146	0.00	9.33	12.87	12.44
Monterey FAA	59	-3	73	50	186	41	0.00	7.57	14.78	18.72
King City	67	-1	90	47	710	516	0.00	9.35	12.25	11.44
Paso Robles AP	73	-2	103	48	988	823	0.00	8.31	13.36	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	79	-4	99	58	1,649	1,397	0.00	24.10	35.89	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	79	-3	99	56	1,674	1,470	0.00	15.05	23.86	22.29
Chico AFS	77	-1	97	54	1,442	1,152	0.00	19.44	26.62	26.32
Marysville	76	-3	100	51	1,353	1,393	0.00	15.68	22.49	21.04
Sacramento AP	74	-2	98	50	1,162	1,042	0.00	13.71	18.02	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	76	-2	101	52	1,288	1,225	0.02	10.13	13.98	13.95
Fresno	82	-1	102	61	1,828	1,591	0.00	8.41	11.40	10.60
Bakersfield	83	-1	100	64	1,930	1,752	0.00	2.38	6.56	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	63	-1	86	51	275	147	0.00	11.57	14.22	12.36
Santa Barbara	66	0	77	56	482	292	0.00	15.31	17.39	16.25
Ventura	65	0	77	52	309	0	0.00	14.24	15.35	14.38
Los Angeles	73	-2	88	62	1,302	1,194	0.00	13.53	15.27	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	1,365	1,197	0.00	6.87	10.77	9.58
San Diego AP	69	-2	74	63	785	815	0.00	7.25	10.82	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	78	1	103	52	1,047	949	0.00	7.68	5.23	5.37
Lancaster	82	0	104	58	1,685	1,339	0.00	5.28	7.97	6.92
Daggett AP	90	1	109	70	2,443	2,277	0.01	3.09	4.66	3.93
Thermal AP	91	0	110	65	3,150	2,847	0.00	3.66	3.79	3.16
Blythe	95	0	110	79	3,251	3,143	0.00	2.41	4.43	3.60
Imperial	93	1	109	73	2,980	2,925	0.00	2.38	3.13	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	65	-1	91	41	376	185	0.02	12.33	12.61	12.01
Mt. Shasta	66	-2	87	45	465	271	0.00	30.09	40.47	37.02
Blue Canyon	71	1	80	60	666	309	0.00	37.49	66.40	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	791	573	0.00	15.97	39.04	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.